

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127212

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ET, US

SUBJECT: LANDING/PARKING/NAVIGATION FEES IN ETHIOPIA

REFERENCE: (A) ADDIS 3525

(B) STATE 237352 DTG 042207Z DEC 73

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED EMBASSY'S PROPOSED NOTE CONTAINED
REF A WITH WHICH WE CONCUR SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY NOTE TO THE IEG ON THIS SUBJECT
SHOULD ALSO CONTAIN AT LEAST A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE AGREED FORMULA FOR ASSESSING LANDING/PARKING/
NAVIGATION FEES (REF B, PARAS 2 AND 3) SINCE IT IS AN
INTEGRAL PART OF OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE MUTUAL ELIMINATION
OF PAST DEBTS. FURTHER, WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO
EMPHASIZE THAT OUR WILLINGNESS TO PAY THESE FEES IN
NO WAY DEROGATES FROM THE TAX RELIEF GRANTED TO USG
EXPENDITURES BY ARTICLE III, PARA 3, OF THE MUTUAL
DEFENSE AGREEMENT OF 1953. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE DRAWN FROM
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EMBASSY NOTE 452 OF 1971 BE INCLUDED AS PARA (A) AND THAT

THE OTHER PARAGRAPHS BE RELETTERED ACCORDINGLY: "(A) THE
USG WOULD BE ASSESSED SERVICE CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH
LANDING AND PARKING BY UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT
AT BOTH BOLE (ADDIS ABABA) AND ASMARA (YOHANNES IV) AT

RATES NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN THOSE PAID BY OTHER STATE
AIRCRAFT USING THOSE FIELDS. THE USG WOULD ALSO BE
ASSESSED SERVICE CHARGES TO COMPENSATE THE IEG FOR
ACTUAL BURDENS PLACED ON ITS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
FACILITIES BY UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT, WHICH
CHARGES WOULD IN NO CASE BE GREATER THAN THOSE PAID BY
OTHER STATE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE ABOVE
CHARGES WOULD BE ASSESSED ON FLIGHTS OF THOSE UNITED
STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF UNITED
STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP ACTIVITIES IN
ETHIOPIA. MOREOVER, NOTHING IN THIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE
CONSTRUED AS ALTERING THE TAX RELIEF ACCORDED BY THE IEG
IN THE MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT OF 1953 TO EXPENDITURES
IN ETHIOPIA BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, THE USG."

3. AS TO THE INCLUSION OF POINT (E) (REF A, PARA 2) IN THE
NOTE, OUR INTENT WAS, OF COURSE, TO EMBODY THE PRINCIPLE
OF MUTUALITY AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO THE OBLIGATION
OF THE USG TO MAKE ANY PAYMENT OF PAST OR CURRENT CHARGES,
AND WE WOULD STRENUOUSLY OBJECT TO ANY INTERPRETATION
BY THE IEG THAT IT IS AN INVITATION MERELY TO CANCEL
THESE LARGE DEBTS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE PREAMBLE OF
EMBASSY'S PROPOSED NOTE SUFFICIENTLY STRESSES MUTUALITY
AND SINCE WE WISH TO AVOID EVEN THE PERCEPTION OF A
DIMINISHED DESIRE TO COLLECT THE PAST DUE MAAG SUPPORT
COSTS, WE AGREE TO THE DELETION OF POINT (E). SISCO

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